

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 16, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-11 have been amended for better clarity and conformance to U.S. practice, such as beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', and changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Claims 1-11 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,796,869 (Stone) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,401,050 (Britt). Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly

unpatentable over Stone in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0127278 (Cok). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Stone and Britt in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,430,232 (Lynch). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 are patentable over Stone, Britt, Cok and Lynch for at least the following reasons.

Stone is directed to a flashlight having a self-illuminating case that includes a phosphorescent band which is illuminated and regenerated when the flashlight is on, by redirecting a portion of the light emitted from the flashlight to illuminate and regenerate the phosphorescent band. The phosphorescent band is visible when the flashlight is on.

Britt is directed to a phosphorescent escape route indicator that includes a phosphorescent arrow 14 shown in FIG 1. The phosphorescent arrow 14 is visible when the light source of the escape route indicator is on.

Cok is directed to an ambient light detection circuit for adjusting the brightness of a flat-panel display that includes a photo-sensor having a sensitivity to detect low light levels, such as $<100\text{cd/m}^2$, as recited in paragraph [0005].

Lynch is directed to an illuminated display using ultra-violet (UV) and visible light rays. The UV light is projected onto photo luminescent or fluorescent material to make this material visible. In particular, the UV light is projected through a moving serrated filter 41 so that motion appears on a picture, such as on a surface of water in the picture. Thus, similar to Stone and Britt, the luminescent material is visible when a corresponding UV light source is on.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 12, amongst other patentable elements, requires (illustrative emphasis provided):

wherein the after-glowing material is shaped in a predetermined pattern for displaying information and is substantially invisible when the light means generates the light.

A patterned after-glowing material, which is substantially invisible when a light source generates light, is nowhere taught or suggested in Stone, Britt, Cok, Lynch, and combinations thereof. Rather, Stone, Britt and Lynch teach phosphorescent or luminescent material which is visible when a light source of the corresponding


device is on. Thus, Stone, Britt and Lynch teach away from the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 12.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 12 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-11 and 13-20 should also be allowed based at least on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 12.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 8, 2007

Enclosure: New Abstract

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